

LM Notebook test. Initial chronology reiteration of 'The work of the Labour Party's Governance and Legal Unit in relation to antisemitism, 2014 – 2019' document.

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Here is a timeline of events related to Iain McNicol during 2015-2016, focusing on incidents that likely required his strategic involvement as Labour Party General Secretary:

2015

- **August 2015:** As the likelihood of Jeremy Corbyn winning the Labour leadership election became apparent, senior staff members, including Jo Green and John Stolliday, discussed **delaying or cancelling the election**, citing insufficient resources for checking new members. Stolliday inquired about **Iain McNicol's** position on a potential delay.
- **August 2015:** Jo Green and John Stolliday considered the possibility of the three other leadership candidates withdrawing to halt the election, a scenario Stolliday found appealing. They also discussed the potential disaffiliation of Unite, a major union, and the formation of a new party. **McNicol's** awareness of these discussions, particularly those concerning the party's stability and election procedures, would have been crucial as General Secretary.
- **September 2015:** Following Jeremy Corbyn's election victory, **McNicol** and other senior staff planned for Corbyn's visit to party headquarters. Staff members, including Stolliday, discussed their negative feelings and planned lack of engagement during the visit. As General Secretary, **McNicol** would have been responsible for managing staff relations and ensuring a professional environment despite internal disagreements.
- **September 2015:** John Stolliday, soon to take a key role in GLU, described his new position as being "on the barricades for the resistance" against Corbyn. **McNicol**, as the head of the party's administration and overseeing GLU, would have been aware of the internal opposition and the potential for factionalism to impact party operations.
- **September 2015:** Mike Creighton, GLU's Director of Risk and Property, drafted a rule change to explicitly state that an incumbent leader would require nominations to stand in a leadership contest. As General Secretary, **McNicol's** involvement in and

awareness of potential rule changes, especially those concerning the leadership, would have been essential.

- **September 2015:** Jo Green and Sarah Waite discussed the need for a poll showing a significant Labour deficit to expedite Corbyn's removal, indicating early discussions among staff about a potential challenge to his leadership. **McNicol's** understanding of these internal sentiments would have been vital for his role in maintaining party stability.
- **October 2015:** Senior staff, including Simon Jackson and Jo Green, discussed the need to "get rid" of Corbyn within months to prevent the "trots" from embedding themselves in the party. **McNicol's** awareness of such organized opposition within Labour HQ would have been critical for his strategic planning.
- **November 2015:** GLU, under **McNicol's** oversight, decided to readmit Christine Shawcroft to the party after being unable to find evidence that she campaigned against Labour. This decision involving a prominent NEC member would likely have required **McNicol's** approval.
- **December 2015:** Following Labour's victory in the Oldham by-election, senior staff expressed disappointment and hoped that the May 2016 elections would lead to Corbyn's removal. **McNicol** would have been privy to these internal reactions and planning for potential leadership challenges.

2016

- **January 2016:** Senior staff, including Sam Matthews, discussed the possibility of jobs being "stitched up" for Labour Students. **McNicol**, as General Secretary responsible for party staffing, would have been aware of recruitment practices and potential factional influences on hiring decisions.
- **April 2016:** **McNicol** wrote to a complainant about alleged antisemitic remarks at a CLP meeting, stating that the complaint should go to the region in the first instance. This indicates **McNicol's** involvement in directing the handling of antisemitism complaints.
- **April 2016:** Following controversial comments by Naz Shah MP, **McNicol** was instructed by Jeremy Corbyn to administratively suspend her from the Labour Party. This highlights **McNicol's** role in implementing disciplinary action at the leader's direction.
- **April 2016:** Following Ken Livingstone's controversial remarks, **McNicol** was involved in discussions with LOTO staff regarding the decision to suspend him. This demonstrates **McNicol's** strategic involvement in handling high-profile disciplinary cases.
- **July 2016:** **McNicol** played a central role in the controversial NEC meeting that decided Jeremy Corbyn would be on the ballot for the leadership election. His presentation of legal advice and management of the meeting were crucial to the outcome.
- **July 2016:** After the NEC meeting, a senior staff member reported that **McNicol** said, "this is the first time the unions have actually chosen to f*** the party rather than support it". This reveals **McNicol's** strong feelings and likely strategic discussions with others about the NEC decision and union influence.
- **July 2016:** GLU initiated the "Validation" process to check new members and supporters, particularly targeting Corbyn supporters for exclusion from the leadership election. As the head of the party's administration, **McNicol** would have overseen and likely approved this large-scale operation.

- **August 2016:** During the "Validation" process, the scale of the operation was intentionally hidden from the NEC, with staff admitting they worried the NEC would "get scared" if they knew how many there were to review. **McNicol's** awareness and potential complicity in withholding this information from the NEC would indicate strategic involvement.
- **September 2016:** Following the conclusion of the leadership election, **McNicol** wrote to the NEC to defend the "Validation" process and provided examples of comments from individuals deemed ineligible to participate. This demonstrates **McNicol's** direct involvement in managing the political fallout and justifying the controversial process.
- **November 2016:** Following allegations against Keith Vaz MP, Iain **McNicol** chose to "hold line" rather than consult LOTO on a potential suspension. This highlights **McNicol's** independent decision-making in disciplinary matters concerning high-profile individuals.

Here is a timeline of events related to John Stolliday during 2015-2016, drawing on information in the sources, with page numbers in brackets:

2015

- **June 2015:** As a Senior Media Monitoring Officer, **Stolliday** expressed opposition to both Jeremy Corbyn and Andy Burnham during the leadership election in a conversation with Jo Green. He reacted with "fucking hell" upon hearing Ed Miliband might support Corbyn.
- **July 2015:** **Stolliday** referred to Andy Burnham's leadership campaign as "team #failure".
- **August 2015:** As it became clear Jeremy Corbyn might win the leadership election, **Stolliday** and Jo Green discussed delaying or cancelling the election, considering scenarios like insufficient resources for checks or other candidates withdrawing. **Stolliday** considered this a "great idea".
- **September 2015:** **Stolliday** discussed Jeremy Corbyn's planned visit to party headquarters with Anna Wright, expressing amazement at the purchase of prosecco and stating his intention not to drink or clap, and to stay at his desk or leave the office.
- **September 2015:** **Stolliday** saw his move into GLU as being "on the barricades for the resistance" against Corbyn. He described his new role as involving "political fixing", selections, and "legal stuff", specifically noting the need to "completely overhaul selections to stop the useless trots getting selected".
- **September 2015:** Before his interview for a role in GLU, **Stolliday** commented that the appointment was a "**Bit of an Emilie stitch up**".
- **October 2015:** **Stolliday** became "Head of the Constitutional Unit" in GLU. He discussed trying to stop "trots" from being selected as Labour's candidate in Scotland.
- **October 2015:** **Stolliday** and Jo Green discussed getting "rid" of Corbyn, with someone "sacrificing themselves".

2016

- **January 2016:** **Stolliday** discussed the fact that "these labour students" working in the office all supported Liz Kendall, who gained a very small percentage of the vote in the 2015 leadership election.
- **March 2016:** **Stolliday** wrote that the NCC was the body that determined expulsions, and GLU could only suspend and refer cases to them.
- **April 2016:** When LOTO requested an opinion on the leadership election rules, **Stolliday** was involved in the process of seeking legal advice.
- **April 2016:** In the case of Rod Liddle's Islamophobic and transphobic comments, **Stolliday** noted Liddle's connection to Ian Austin and Tom Watson and suggested they "**may just sit on it for now**".
- **May 2016:** **Stolliday** proposed suspending Rod Liddle for Islamophobia and past transphobic remarks.
- **June 2016:** **Stolliday** discussed the case of Christine Shawcroft's readmission, noting that Iain McNicol and Mike Creighton couldn't get evidence she campaigned against the party.
- **June 2016:** **Stolliday** discussed overturning Brighton CLP's AGM with Katherine Buckingham, referring to a "bunch of SWP & Trots marching straight from a rally to invade a CLP meeting".

- **July 2016: Stolliday** said he was "**Just praying we lose in court to Michael foster**" regarding the legal challenge to Corbyn being on the leadership ballot.
- **July 2016: Stolliday** was reportedly happy that "Foster is winning" the legal challenge.
- **July 2016: Stolliday**, as Director of GLU, played a central role in the "Validation" process to vet members and supporters during the leadership election. He was involved in preparing the list of "banned" words and phrases used to flag individuals.
- **July 2016:** Staff noted that **Stolliday** was using the "Validation" email address.
- **September 2016: Stolliday** discussed "briefing John McTernan".
- **September 2016:** Staff noted that **Stolliday** "doesn't like trots".
- **December 2016: Stolliday** and other staff discussed a member who referred to a "Zionist controlled Judiciary" and "Rothschild scam".

Here is a timeline of events related to Emily Oldknow during 2015-2016, focusing on incidents that likely involved her strategic role as Executive Director for Governance, Membership and Party Services, with page numbers in brackets:

2015

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August 2015: During discussions among senior staff about potentially delaying or cancelling the Labour leadership election due to Jeremy Corbyn's rising support, **Emily Oldknow**, as a senior figure responsible for party governance, would likely have been involved in these conversations and any contingency planning.

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September 2015: After Jeremy Corbyn's election, senior staff, including Ali Moussavi and Sarah Brown, discussed "hanging and burning" Corbyn. **Oldknow**, in her senior role overseeing party operations and conduct, would have been in a position to be aware of such extreme reactions among staff.

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November 2015: When a line in a letter suspending Andrew Fisher, Corbyn's advisor, could have mandated expulsion if charges were proven by the NCC, **Oldknow** discussed with Stolliday, Creighton, and Shaw the need to "ride it out with members of the NCC" and "try to fudge later on down the line," indicating her strategic thinking regarding disciplinary outcomes and the NCC process.

2016

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February 2016: In response to a BBC Newsnight inquiry about discrimination against Muslim women trying to become councillors, **Oldknow**, as a senior figure in governance, would have been involved in formulating the party's response.

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February 2016: When a complaint arose about Rod Liddle's transphobic and Islamophobic comments, **Oldknow** was consulted by John Stolliday, who noted Liddle's connection to Ian Austin and Tom Watson and suggested delaying action. **Oldknow** replied, "Ok. I will speak to Ian," highlighting her role in navigating politically sensitive disciplinary matters.

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April 2016: Following the controversy surrounding Naz Shah MP's social media posts, **Oldknow** consulted with LOTO on the appropriate action, reporting that "**Their view is no – we shouldn't suspend**", demonstrating her role in seeking political alignment on sensitive cases.

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April 2016: In discussions regarding the suspension of Ken Livingstone, **Oldknow** participated in conference calls with LOTO and Iain McNicol to establish the facts and decide on the course of action, indicating her strategic involvement in high-profile disciplinary matters.

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April 2016: Responding to John McDonnell's public criticism of the Party's handling of Vicki Kirby's antisemitism case, **Oldknow** suggested they just "**expel and then deal with it**", showcasing her focus on decisive action in sensitive cases.

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May 2016: Following a complaint about a Labour member displaying an offensive poster, Stolliday sought **Oldknow's** input on potential suspension. **Oldknow's** consideration of the situation illustrates her oversight of disciplinary decisions.

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May 2016: When John Stolliday proposed suspending Rod Liddle for Islamophobia and past transphobic remarks, **Oldknow** consulted LOTO before proceeding, emphasizing the need for political awareness in handling cases involving journalists.

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July 2016: **Oldknow** played a significant role in the lead-up to the crucial NEC meeting on Jeremy Corbyn's leadership candidacy, being privy to legal advice and strategic discussions within the party.

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July 2016: During the "Validation" process, which aimed to exclude Corbyn supporters from the leadership election, **Oldknow**, overseeing GLU, would have been strategically responsible for the implementation and management of this controversial operation.

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August 2016: Following the "Validation" process and concerns about the grounds for suspensions, **Oldknow** was involved in discussions about reviewing and potentially lifting suspensions with warnings, indicating her role in managing the aftermath of the operation.

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October 2016: Senior staff discussed Dawn Butler MP's appointment to the Shadow Cabinet, with **Oldknow** commenting negatively, reflecting the prevailing factional attitudes within Labour HQ.

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November 2016: Senior staff discussed allegations against Keith Vaz MP and the potential for suspension. **Oldknow** stated, "**We cannot suspend Keith**", highlighting her influence on decisions regarding high-profile figures.

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December 2016: Tracey Allen suggested keeping LOTO staff away from Head Office by "burn[ing] incense... to ward off Trots," and **Oldknow** engaged in this discussion, illustrating the strained relationship between Labour HQ and LOTO.

Here is a timeline of events related to Sam Matthews during 2015-2016, based on the information in the sources:

2016

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January 2016: Matthews, who was then an employee of "Oasis" and formerly in Labour's print team, enquired about a Labour vacancy ("Campaigns Officer – Campaign Materials and Direct Mail") and was encouraged to apply. He expressed concern about the role being "stitched up" for a Labour Student but was told it might not be under the new management.

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February 2016: Matthews arranged to meet Mike Creighton for coffee.

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March 2016: Matthews applied for the new role of "Compliance Officer - Investigations".

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March 2016: Matthews accepted the role of "Compliance Officer - Investigations" but noted he was only available to start in three months, after the EU referendum on 23 June, as he was about to start a three-month contract as a "Field Organiser" for "Britain Stronger IN For Europe".

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June 2016: Matthews started his role as Compliance Officer on 27 June 2016. He was immediately tasked with "co-ordinating" the "**Validation**" process, a large-scale operation to vet members and supporters during the 2016 leadership election.

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June 2016: Matthews and Richard Shakespeare discussed the goal of the "Validation" process was to investigate and refer as many individuals as possible within the given timeframe.

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June 2016: Matthews and Shakespeare discussed the need for secrecy and using "trusted" people for the "Validation" process, with 10 people being recruited from Labour Students.

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July 2016: Matthews and Shakespeare discussed the increasing numbers of people joining the party, expressing concern about this.

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July 2016: Matthews and Shakespeare discussed flagging prominent individuals from the party's left, including James Schneider, and expressed disappointment when they could not find sufficient evidence for action.

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July 2016: Matthews discussed Momentum phone-canvassing Labour members with Katherine Buckingham, suggesting it "feels like a breach" of data protection regulations.

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July 2016: Matthews and Shakespeare discussed the inclusion of the term "war criminal" as a "banned phrase" for the "Validation" process.

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July 2016: Matthews noted the scale of the "Validation" operation was initially hidden from the NEC.

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July 2016: Matthews explained that GLU needed "a bit of NEC cover" to issue suspensions during the "Validation" process.

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August 2016: Matthews told a colleague that "calling someone a warmonger" was "generally" "enough in itself" to act against members.

- - August 2016: Matthews** discussed with Kat Buckingham the “banned phrases list” being sent to the NEC, noting that the list of MPs being flagged was not included.
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 - August 2016: Matthews** noted that “the matching process for Facebook is not nearly as accurate as it is on Twitter” during the “Validation” process.
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 - September 2016: Matthews** and Richard Shakespeare discussed the need for secrecy regarding the “Validation” process.
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 - September 2016: Matthews** discussed with colleagues the large number of appeals being received following the “Validation” process.
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 - November 2016: Matthews** took on the role of Head of Disputes after Katherine Buckingham decided to leave. He was the only person interviewed for the job.
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 - November 2016: Matthews** did not reply or take action on a complaint about Ian McKenzie, a "Labour First" activist, who had been reported for abusive conduct.
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 - December 2016: Matthews** discussed with Ben Westerman how Emilie Oldknow expected staff to “fabricate a case” against people “she doesn’t like/her friends don’t like” because of their political views.
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 - December 2016: Matthews** held a meeting with "Tangent" regarding the creation of a new case management tool for GLU.
- This timeline highlights **Matthews's rapid ascent within GLU**, his central role in the controversial "**Validation**" process, and the beginnings of his leadership role within the Disputes team towards the end of 2016.

Here is a detailed full timeline of the main events covered in the provided source.

Pre-2014 (Implied):

- The source mentions historical cases (e.g., Falkirk suspension in 2014, Shawcroft case) suggesting the Governance and Legal Unit (GLU) existed and dealt with disciplinary matters before 2014.
- The source references a "2014 suspension in Falkirk" implying an incident and disciplinary action occurred.
- A case involving Lord Ahmed and the Times in March 2013 is mentioned.
- A case involving an "improper relationship with lobbyists" leading to someone leaving in June 2013 is noted.
- Licensing offences and disclosure of confidential information cases from July and August 2013 are referenced.
- A conviction for ABH in August 2014 is mentioned.
- The Marie Rimmer case dates back to October 2014.

2015:

- **August:** Sarah Brown notes a colleague might "do a work to rule" or take extended holiday, and Jo Green expresses feeling "physically sick about JC" following Jeremy Corbyn's leadership campaign.
- **August:** Staff discuss rejecting members who retweeted Green Party material or a critical tweet about Labour MPs, with notes like "green party supporter -likes on facebook".
- **August:** Discussions about John Stolliday's potential "sack for supporting JC" occur.
- **September:** Shortly after Jeremy Corbyn's election as Labour leader, Anna Wright and John Stolliday have a WhatsApp exchange containing offensive language.
- **September:** Simon Jackson and Jo Green discuss the appointment of a new "International Officer" who is "good politics" and "not a trot".
- **September:** Claire-Frances Lennon advises John Stolliday before an interview, referring to the appointment as a "Bit of an Emilie stitch up".

2016:

- **January:** Sam Matthews enquires about a Labour vacancy and is encouraged to apply.
- **January:** Greg Cook and Stephen Pattison discuss avoiding hiring "Trots" for a vacancy.
- **May:** Controversy erupts over Rod Liddle writing in The Spectator, leading to discussions within GLU about potential action, influenced by his connection to Tom Watson and Iain McNicol. No action was ultimately taken.
- **June:** Richard Shakespeare expresses excitement about working on "validation" of new members, adding "fuck Momentum".
- **July:** Discussions within GLU about the "Applicant Validation System (AVS)" and scanning new members' social media for problematic content.
- **July:** Sam Matthews tells a colleague that "calling someone a warmonger" could be "enough in itself" to act.
- **August:** Discussions about suspending Ronnie Draper, leader of the bakers' union, occur after he retweets a Green Party councillor. His suspension was later lifted.
- **August:** Staff discuss issues with the "validation" of new members and preventing "left-wingers" from voting.
- **October:** Simon Jackson explains to Jo Green how he appointed an "International Officer" who has "good politics".
- **November:** Discussions occur regarding a police investigation into Keith Vaz, with Emilie Oldknow stating "We cannot suspend Keith" without specific charges.

- **November:** Ben Westerman and Sam Matthews note the GLU team will be the "biggest unit that's not field".
- **November:** Matthews informs Regional Directors about "Administrative suspensions & investigations," stating most of the 230 cases will be either lifted or reported to Disputes.
- **December:** Staff discuss that John Stolliday "doesn't like trots" as a way to bond with him.

2017:

- **January:** Staff use the codenames "Operation Cake" and "Operation Cupcake" in internal communications, seemingly related to internal processes.
- **January:** Emilie Oldknow discusses the need for John (likely John Stolliday) to "vote to remove RLB" and refers to Nancy as a "fucking idiot".
- **February:** Sam Matthews states, "The Work Goes On delivering the new case management database... but there is no timescale yet."
- **February:** Matthews outlines a "Validation Plan" to Regional Directors.
- **March:** WhatsApp exchanges among staff mock the appearance of women Political Advisors and discuss Lyn Brown's competence.
- **April:** Emilie Oldknow suggests a document criticising Sion Simon won't be leaked as it criticises him.
- **April:** Iain McNicol refers to "Family, friends, friends of family and fellow trot" in the context of recruitment processes.
- **May:** Internal discussions about "hunting out 1000s of trots" and "trot busting" work.
- **May:** Staff discuss "Katy's problem" being "the trots" and the unpleasantness of those in "The Squat" area.
- **June:** Iain McNicol jokes "I am a trot" in a WhatsApp conversation.
- **June:** Staff celebrate a negative poll result and disparage Diane Abbott and Emily Thornberry.
- **July:** A complaint comes in about Councillor William Kirkbride's misogynistic social media post. John Stolliday initially advises not suspending unless media pressure is too much.
- **September:** John Stolliday privately emails about the Nasreen Khan case, noting the party has been criticized for inaction on antisemitism.
- **December:** Sam Matthews discusses a backlog of "left over decisions" and "cases missed in validation".

2018:

- **February:** Iain McNicol indicates Kezia Dugdale has "said enough" to be suspended and discusses the timetable for the election of a new General Secretary.
- **February:** Sam Matthews proposes adding three additional officers to the Disputes team to Iain McNicol.
- **February:** Jeremy Corbyn sends Iain McNicol a letter regarding disciplinary procedures and the Chakrabarti Report.
- **March:** Emilie Oldknow, Karie Murphy, and others discuss issues related to John Stolliday's management.
- **March:** Discussions about the case of Glyn Secker and additional problematic content are exchanged.
- **April:** Thomas Gardiner begins working in GSO and his role includes input on antisemitism cases. He requests information on decision-making thresholds from Sam Matthews.
- **April:** A complaint about William Brown is flagged as a "very much like an open and shut case for suspension".
- **April:** Cases of David Walls, Clive Perrett, Neil Peter Davies, Claire Udy, Wes McLachlan, Joanna Stobbs, Glyn Secker, Jane Dipple, Peter Twohey, and Gary Pride are reviewed with recommendations for suspension or NOI.

- **April:** Sam Matthews clarifies that the "tests that officers will apply before sending" a recommendation include "Is there a prima facie breach of rule?" and "is it in the immediate interests of the Labour Party to place the member under administrative suspension".
- **May:** Ian McKenzie is suspended, with discussions involving Thomas Gardiner and Sam Matthews.
- **June:** The suspension of Neil Peter Davies is lifted after he "Proved he did not post the material".
- **July:** Thomas Gardiner notes several vacant positions within GLU and the need for more staff.
- **August:** Dan Howl and Patrick Smith start as Disputes Investigations Officers in October.
- **October:** Agreement to advertise nine Regional Governance Officer roles.

2019:

- **January:** Ros Henke's case is mentioned, with a final decision expected in January 2020.
- **March:** Lesley Perrin's case is noted, with a final decision expected in December 2019.
- **March:** Alan Bull's case, originating in July 2017, is still ongoing with an expected final decision in November 2019.
- **April:** Ralph Rea's case is ongoing with an expected final decision in October 2019.
- **April:** Adrian Barker's case is ongoing with an expected final decision in October 2019.
- **August:** Mollie Joy Collins' case is dealt with quickly with decisions in August and November 2019.
- **August:** Katherine Hurley's case is ongoing with an expected final decision in November 2019.
- **September:** The National Constitutional Committee considers Catherine Love-Madden's case, issuing a formal warning and a further one-year suspension.
- **October:** Margaret Tyson's case is referred to the NCC after a new administrative suspension in July.
- **November/December:** Several cases have expected final decisions in December 2019, including David Barron, Iqbal Halani, Leslie Chalk, Safia Ali, Cookie McBride, Lynne Gillard, and Catherine Love-Madden.
- **Q1-Q4:** The tables provide a breakdown of suspensions, Notices of Investigation (NOIs), NEC decisions, and NCC decisions on antisemitism cases throughout 2019, showing a significant increase in the number of such actions compared to previous years.

2020:

- **January:** Final decisions expected for Ros Henke and Pauline Hammerton.
- The report itself is dated 2020.